GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2727
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
UNICEF REPORT ON HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has failed to provide basic healthcare facilities to its poorest children as pointed out in the UNICEF report released recently;

(b) if so,the details thereof;and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) As per the UNICEF report "The State of the World's Children 2008", India's under five mortality rate has declined by 34 per cent since 1990.It is one of the priority countries for child survival.

(c) Action is being taken by the Union Government to bring down the infant and child mortality rate in the country.A major initiative is implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy,which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality−sepsis,acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea,measles and malaria,all compounded by malnutrition.In addition,thrust is being given to ensure institutional deliveries and train health personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns receive specialized care.Efforts to deliver new born and child care,both facility based as well as home based, are being made. Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A,Iron Folic Acid and Zinc and Infant and Young Child Nutrition are being stressed.Immunization is one of the major thrust areas of the ongoing Reproductive & Child Health Programme.The National Rural Health Mission, launched in April, 2005 for a period of 7 years (2005 to 2012) is an overarching initiative with a holistic approach which provides multiple strategic additionalities,like provision for health infrastructure up gradation and a health care worker for every 1000 population,among other and has envisaged reduction in neonatal,infant and child Mortality as one of the prime goals to be achieved.